

#### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a first sorting machine the mail items are sorted into groups of associated delivery points. The mail items are then fed group by group to a second sorting machine for the last sorting pass in which the mail items of each group are sorted to the delivery points of the relevant group, the mail items of a delivery point being conveyed into one, or if the mail volume is too great, into a plurality of adjacent, automatically emptiable end points. As soon as all the mail items are in the end point(s), they are automatically unloaded onto an idle sectional conveyor in such a way that the mail items of an end point are in one section. When all the mail items of the group have been loaded into the sections of the sectional conveyor, the sectional conveyor transports the mail items to a distribution unit in which the mail items of each section are mechanically combined and collected in delivery sequence order.